

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

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R 091802Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2447

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USINT ALGIERS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 21600

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, MO

SUBJ: FRENCH INTERESTS IN MOROCCO

1. SUMMARY: FRENCH PRESS HAS GIVEN CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO MOROCCAN LAND NATIONALIZATION DECREES AND IMPLICATIONS FOR 90,000 FRENCH SETTLERS IN MOROCCO. ALL PAPERS AGREE PRINCIPAL QUESTION IS THAT OF INDEMNIZATION AND WHO (GOF OR GOM) WILL HAVE TO PAY. GOF OFFICIALS RELATIVELY OPTIMISTIC ACCEPTABLE SETTLEMENT CAN BE WORKED OUT. END SUMMERY.

2. ECONOMIC DAILY LES ECHOS COMMENTING OF MOROCCAN SITUATION IN AUGUST 8 ARTICLE. STATED INDEMINIZATION PROBLEM ARISES FROM FACT THAT MOROCCO DOES NOT KNOW HAVE MEANS TO PAY DAMAGES AND THEREFORE WISHES FRANCE TO INCREASE ITS AID. ACCORDING TO LES ECHOS, GOF CONSIDERS SUCH A SOLUTION DANGEROUS SINCE IT WOULD CREATE PRECEDENT NOT ONLY FOR DISPOSSESSED FRENCH IN TUNISIA AND ALGERIA, BUT ALSO THOSE AFFECTED BY VAGARIES OF "COOPERATION" ELSEWHERE IN AFRICA. LES ECHOS SPECULATED THAT MODERATION WILL WIN OUT SINCE KING HASSAN HAS NEED FOR FRANCE AND DOES NOT WANT TO COMPLICATE HIS PROBLEMS AT TIME WHEN HE  
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IS TRYING TO REGAIN CONFIDENCE OF HIS PEOPLE BY NATIONALIST AND

PROGRESSIVE MEASURES.

3. QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR NORTH AFRICAN AFFAIRS DE WARREN, COMMENTING ON CURRENT SITUATION IN MOROCCO, TOLD EMBOFF AUGUST 8 THAT FRENCH WERE INDEED HOPEFUL THAT MODERATION WOULD PREVAIL AND THAT COMPENSATION ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE WORKED OUT SATISFACTORILY. FRENCH AMBASSADOR LEBEL HAD CONVERSATION WITH KING HASSAN SEVERAL DAYS AGO AND KING ASSURED LEBEL THAT HE WANTED PROBLEM RESOLVED WITH "ELEGANCE." KING HAS AGREED TO ALLOW ABOUT 100 FAMILIES WITH HOLDINGS OF LESS THAN FIVE HECACRES TO REMAIN ON THEIR LAND FOR REST OF THEIR LIVES, ENJOYING REVENUE FROM PROPERTY. THIS GESTURE HAS CALMED SITUATION, AND FRENCH FINANCE MINISTRY NOW TRYING TO WORK OUT SETTLEMENT, IN WHICH SMALLER LANDHOLDERS WOULD RECEIVE VIRTUALLY TOTAL AND PROMPT COMPENSATION. LARGER LANDOWNERS WOULD RECEIVE PROPORTIONALLY LESS AND PAYMENTS WOULD PROBABLY BE PHASED OVER NUMBER OF YEARS. DE WARREN OBSERVED THAT PROBLEMS OF LARGE LANDOWNERS NOT SO SEVERE, PARTICULARLY CITRUS FARMERS WHO WERE VERY PROSPEROUS AND WHO HAD BEEN ABLE TO RECOUP ORIGINAL INVESTMENT IN PERIOD OF FIVE HARVESTS.

4. DE WARREN ADDED THAT MEASURES NOW BEING WORKED OUT TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TO THOSE DISPOSSESSED AND TO FACILITATE THEIR REINTEGRATION INTO FRANCE. FRENCH CONSULS HAD ALREADY BEEN GIVEN AUTHORITY TO MAKE INITIAL PAYMENTS IN MOROCCO. DE WARREN NOTED THAT FARMERS BEING EXPROPRIATED HAD RIGHT TO TRANSFER EARNINGS FROM LAST HARVEST, TO SEEL THEIR LIVESTOCK AND TO REMOVE ALL PERSONAL BELONGINGS AND HOUSEHOLD GOODS. QUESTION OF TRANSFER OF SAVINGS AND CAPITAL HAD NOT YET BEEN WORKED OUT WITH MOROCCAN GOVERNMENT.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 AUG 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <21-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <19-Nov-2001 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FRENCH INTERESTS IN MOROCCO  
**TAGS:** PFOR, FR, MO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005